

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 13446 302219Z

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, FAO

SUBJECT: WFC: NEW STATEMENT BY SECRETARY GENERAL MAREI ON FOLLOW-UP

BEGIN SUMMARY. SECRETARY GENERAL MAREI INTRODUCED DISCUSSION OF WFC FOLLOW-UP ARRANGEMENTS WITH STATEMENT THAT, FIRST, REDUCED SECRETARIAT'S 85 PROPOSALS TO MANAGEABLE 10 ACTION AREAS AND, SECONDLY, OUTLINED MORE FLEXIBLE AND REALISTIC POSITION ON FOLLOW-UP THAN CONTAINED IN ORIGINAL WORLD FOOD AUTHORITY PROPOSAL. MAREI ALSO HELD OUT HOPE FOR SOME INDICATION FROM OIL PRODUCERS BEFORE PREPCOM END OF THEIR RESPONSE TO CALLS FOR ADDITIONAL FINANCING FOR FOOD PRODUCTION, AND REFLECTED GROWING CONCERN OF SERIOUSLY FOOD-SHORT COUNTRIES OVER NEED FOR SOME SHORT-TERM ACTION FROM WFC. END SUMMARY.

2. ALTHOUGH BILLED AS INTRODUCTION TO DISCUSSION ON WFC FOLLOW-UP, MAREI'S OPENING STATEMENT, SEPT. 30, ALSO SERVED TO COMPRESS FROM 85 RECOMMENDATIONS TO 10 HEADING THE PROPOSALS OF SECRETARIAT AS FOLLOWS:

1) FOOD PRODUCTION TARGETS RELATED TO GENERAL DEVELOPMENT
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PAGE 02 ROME 13446 302219Z

OBJECTIVES;

2) ACTION BY LDCS TO GIVE PRIORITY TO AGRICULTURE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF RELATED AGRARIAN AND POLICY REFORMS;

3) FERTILIZER PROGRAM DEALING WITH SHORT-TERM SUPPLY PROBLEM AND LONGER-TERM ONE TO ENCOURAGE EXPANSION OF PRODUCTION AMONG POTENTIAL EXPORTERS AND ELSEWHERE WHEN INVESTMENT FACTORS ARE FAVORABLE;

4) EXPANSION OF RESEARCH;

5) COMPREHENSIVE ACTION ON NUTRITION AND INTERIM PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE CONDITION OF UNDERNOURISHED GROUPS;

6) GLOBAL FOOD INFORMATION SYSTEM;

7) FOOD SECURITY THROUGH STOCKHOLDING;

8) FOOD AID POLICIES AND PROGRAMS REFLECTING FORWARD PLANNING IN AGRICULTURE AND CONTINUITY IN VOLUME;

9) PRICE STABILIZATION;

10) IMPROVED ARRANGEMENTS FOR AGRICULTURAL TRADE AND ADJUSTMENT TO FAVOR BOTH LDC IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS.

3. TURNING TO FOLLOW-UP ARRANGEMENTS, MAREI ACKNOWLEDGED VIRTUAL CONSENSUS THAT NEW FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE JUSTIFIED ONLY IF NEEDED TO ATTRACT NEW RESOURCES AND THAT THIS UNLIKELY BY NOT MENTIONING FUND AT ALL BUT STRESSING ONLY NEED FOR MORE RESOURCES. HE THEN DEFINED WHAT HE HAS MEANT BY OFT-REPEATED CALL FOR "QUOTE INTEGRATED APPROACH UNQUOTE TO FOOD PROBLEM BY DESCRIBING SEVEN OBJECTIVES (OR ELEMENTS) OF SUCH APPROACH:

A. INCREASING RESOURCE FLOW FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT;

B. COORDINATING FOOD AID AND FOOD SECURITY POLICIES,

C. PROMOTING JOINT VENTURES (IN FERTILIZER) AMONG OIL EXPORTERS, PRIVATE COMPANIES AND LDC CONSUMERS.

D. PROMOTING PRIVATE FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN LDCS.

E. FINANCING FOOD STOCKS IN LDCS.

F. FINANCING FOR CHRONIC FOOD AID NEEDS.

G. LONG-TERM REGIONAL APPROACH TO LAND RECLAMATION, E.G., IN SAHEL.

4. MAREI MADE LOW-KEY MENTION OF HIS WORLD FOOD AUTHORITY PROPOSAL AS ONE APPROACH TO QUOTE INTEGRATED UNQUOTE SOLUTION, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ROME 13446 302219Z

BUT NOTED THAT NAME AND FORM ARE LESS IMPORTANT THAN PROVISION OF ADEQUATE FOLLOW-UP, THUS ESSENTIALLY ABANDONING HIS PROPOSAL.

5. MAREI MADE TWO POINTS IN CLOSING:

A. HE IS PURSUING CONTACTS WITH POTENTIAL DONORS (OIL EXPORTERS) AND HOPES TO BE ABLE TO REPORT RESULTS TO PREPCOM MEETING, AND

B. IT IS NOW MATTER OF GREAT URGENCY AND NATIONAL CONCERN

TO FOOD SHORT COUNTRIES THAT WFC RESULT IN SHORT-TERM RELIEF
IN TERMS OF FOOD AID, INPUTS, ETC.

6. COMMENT: MAREI'S LIST OF TEN ACTION AREAS GENERALLY
RUNS ALONG LINES WHICH WE HOPE GROUP B, AND ULTIMATELY PREPCOM,
WILL PURSUE. HIS STATEMENT GIVES SOME BADLY NEEDED SHAPE AND
DIRECTION TO SUBSTANTIVE PREPARATIONS. UNDERSTAND HIS STAFF WILL
DISTRIBUTE SHORTLY TEXTS UNDER THESE HEADS. MOREOVER, ON
FOLLOW-UP MACHINERY MAREI (AND SECRETARIAT) HAVE ADJUSTED TO
WORKING WITHIN EXISTING FRAMEWORK OF MULTILATERAL FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS, LEAVING OIL PRODUCERS AND PRIVATE SECTOR TO
SUPPLY ADDITIONAL RESOURCES THROUGH EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS. AT
SAME TIME WFA HAS BEEN DISOWNED, IF NOT REJECTED. PREPCOM CAN
NOW PROCEED TO TRY TO DEFINE ITS OWN FOLLOW-UP PROPOSALS.
END BEAUDRY

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